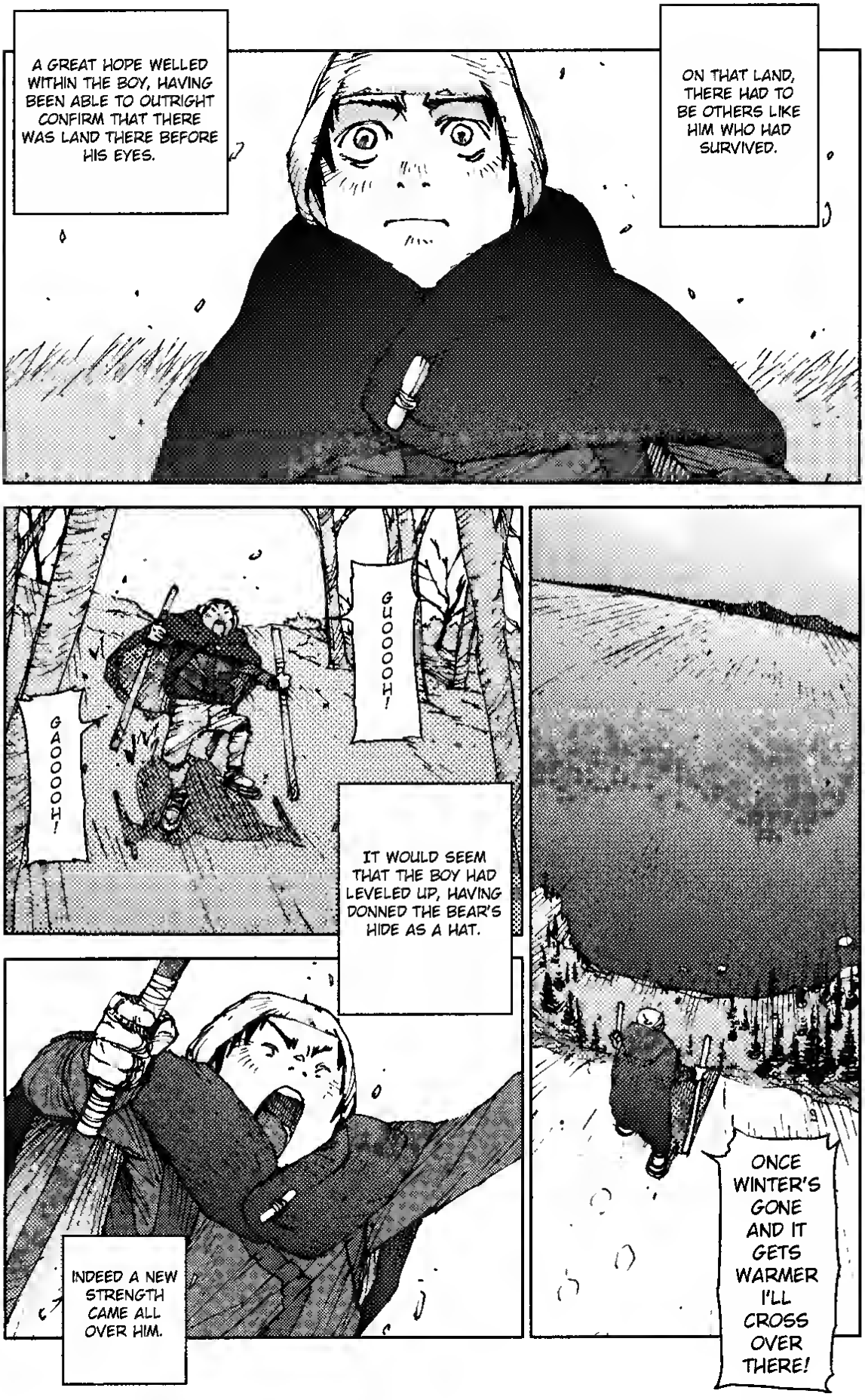
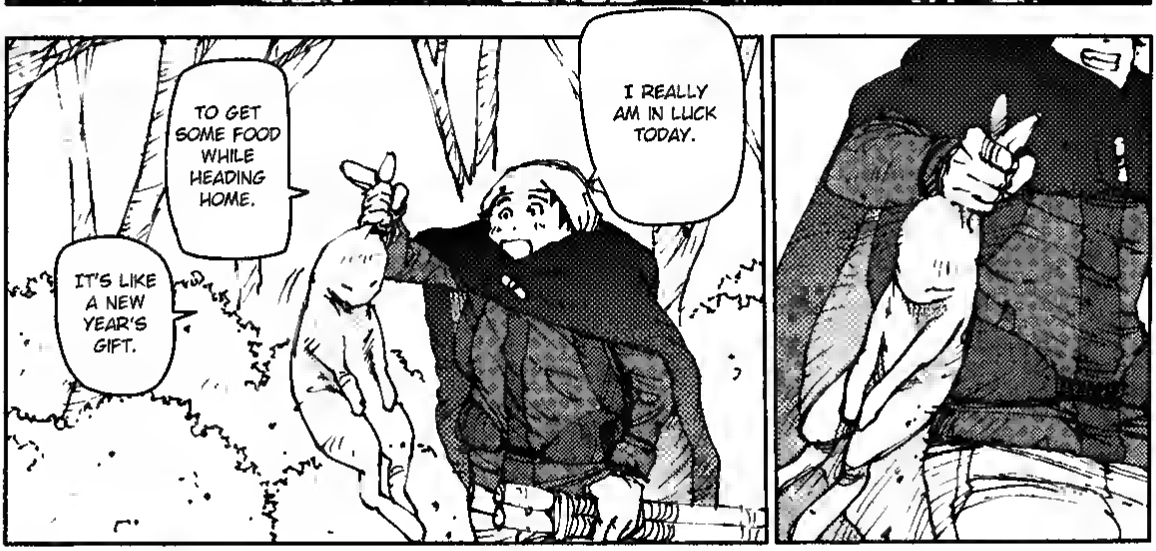
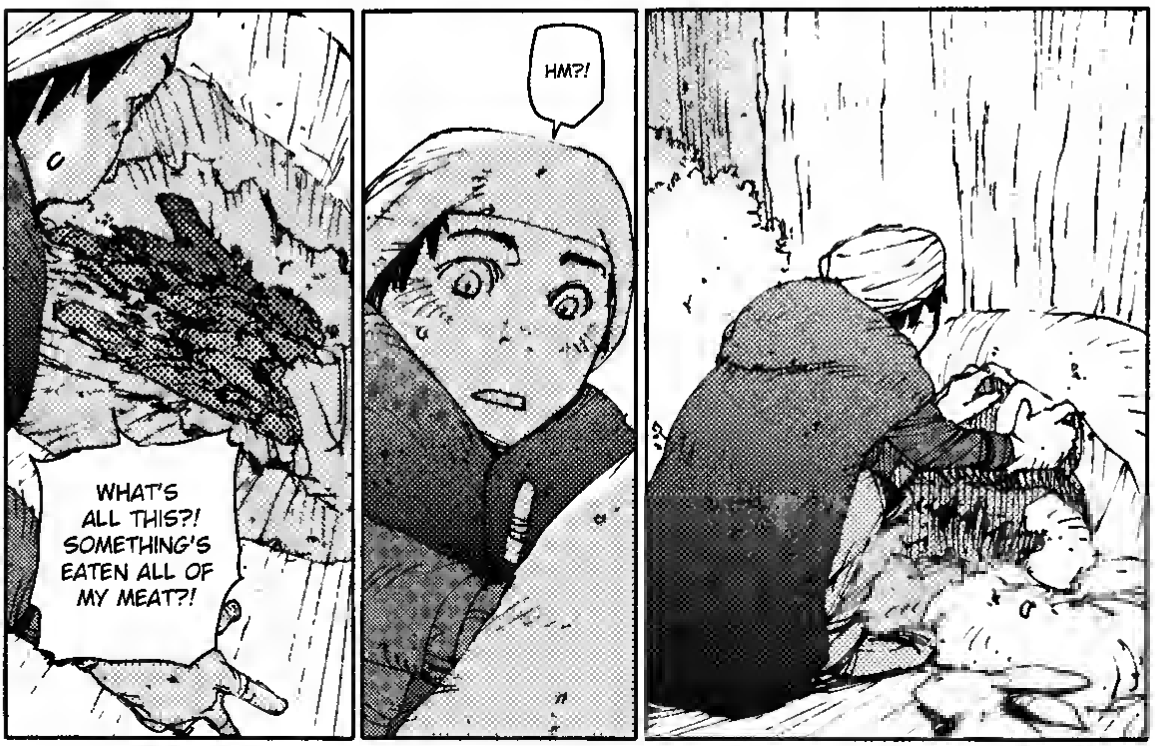
DANGER 20

THE LONG CLOUDY SKY WAS ALSO BEGINNING TO CLEAR UP, AND ON FINE DAYS THE BOY COULD ONCE AGAIN SEE FOR MILES.
THE FREQUENT EARTHQUAKES HAD BEGUN TO CALM DOWN RECENTLY.
!
I SHOULD GET DOWN SOON...

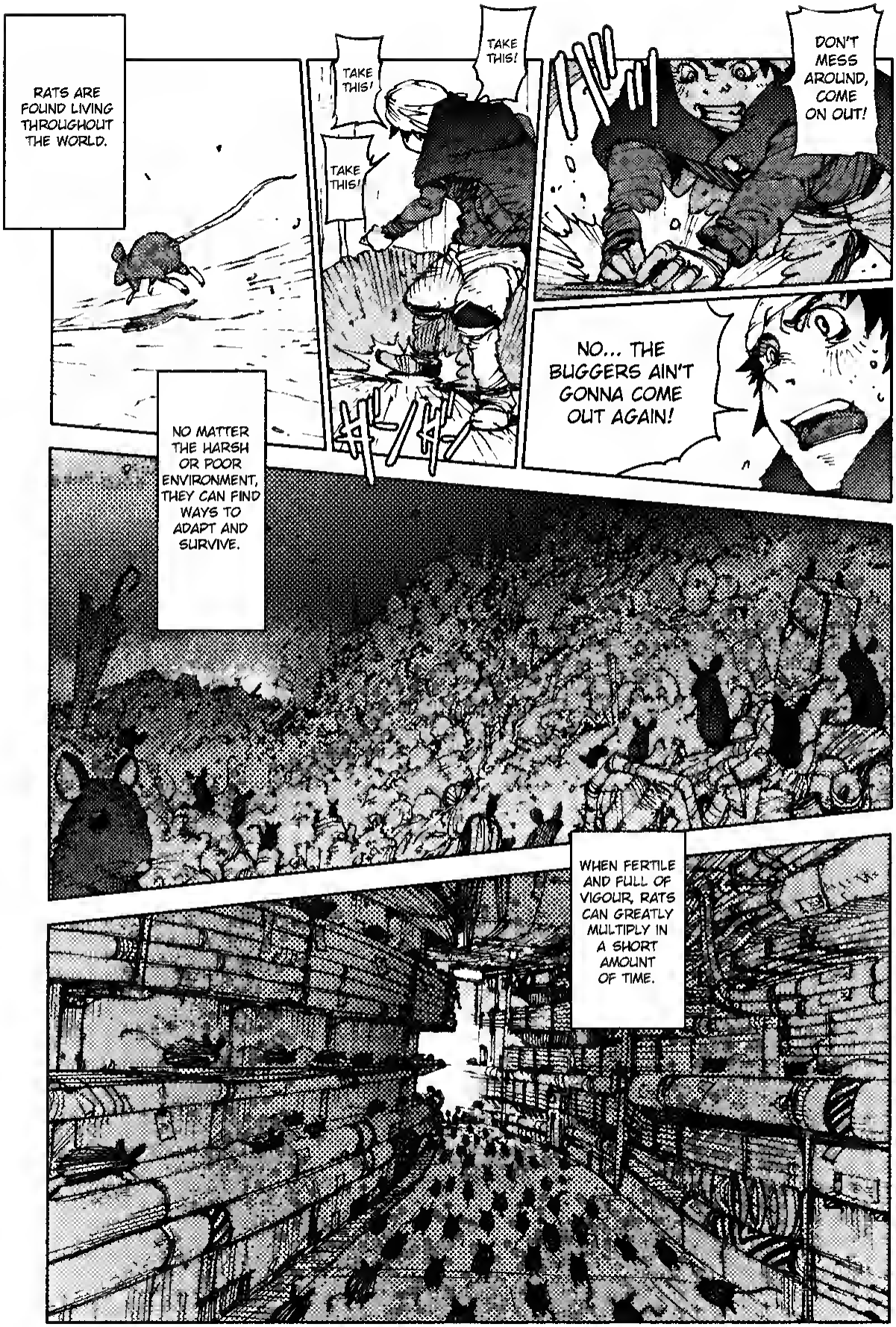
L...
I CAN SEE IT CLEARLY!
IT WAS NO DREAM OR PHANTOM.
BUT UNMISTAKABLE REALITY.
LAND! IT'S LAND!
NO MISTAKING IT!
THE LAND WHICH THE BOY HAD SEEN PREVIOUSLY WAS REAL.

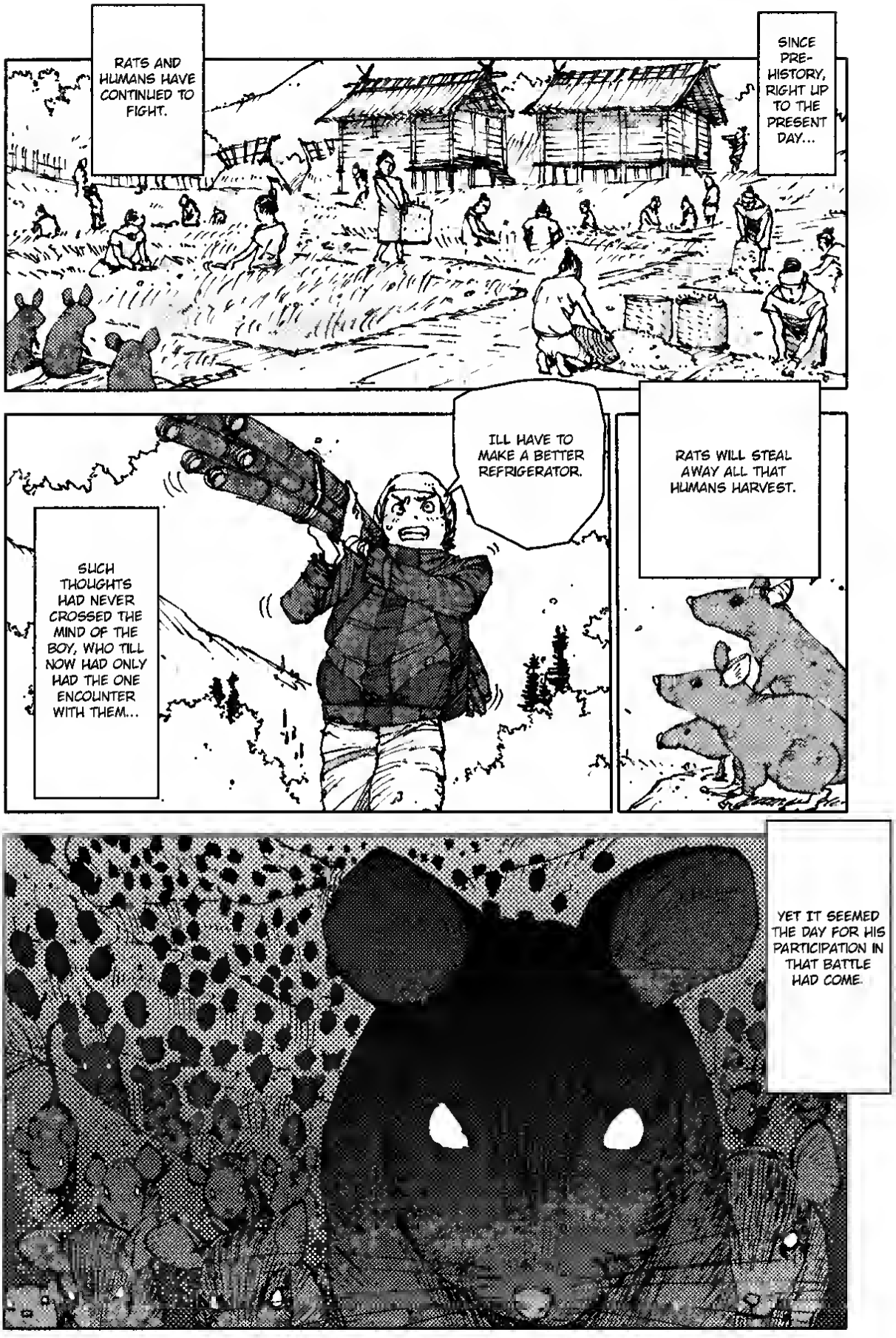

A GREAT HOPE WELLED WITHIN THE BOY, HAVING BEEN ABLE TO OUTRIGHT CONFIRM THAT THERE WAS LAND THERE BEFORE HIS EYES.
ON THAT LAND, THERE HAD TO BE OTHERS LIKE HIM WHO HAD SURVIVED.
GAOOOOH!
GUOOOOH!
IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE BOY HAD LEVELED UP, HAVING DONNED THE BEAR'S HIDE AS A HAT.
INDEED A NEW STRENGTH CAME ALL OVER HIM.
ONCE WINTER'S GONE AND IT GETS WARMER I'LL CROSS OVER THERE!


I REALLY AM IN LUCK TODAY.
TO GET SOME FOOD WHILE HEADING HOME.
IT'S LIKE A NEW YEAR'S GIFT.


WHAT'S ALL THIS?! SOMETHING'S EATEN ALL OF MY MEAT?!
HM?!

RATS!
WHAT COULD'VE WOLFED DOWN ALL THAT MEAT...
WHAT COULD'VE DONE IT?!
ONCE MORE, RATS HAD ARRIVED AND STOLEN HIS BLESSING FROM GOD, HIS ALL IMPORTANT FOOD.
AGAIN EH, WHAT'S WITH THIS TIMING?!
SCREW IT ALL, BLOODY RATS!
THE BOY HAD RETURNED TO HIS DWELLING FULL OF HOPE AND HIGH IN SPIRITS...
AH!
SQUEAK
YOU'RE KIDDING ME! HOW THE HELL COULD THINGS THAT SMALL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS COLD?!


RATS ARE FOUND LIVING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
TAKE THIS!
TAKE THIS!
TAKE THIS!
DON'T MESS AROUND, COME ON OUT!
NO... THE BUGGERS AIN'T GONNA COME OUT AGAIN!
NO MATTER THE HARSH OR POOR ENVIRONMENT, THEY CAN FIND WAYS TO ADAPT AND SURVIVE.
WHEN FERTILE AND FULL OF VIGOUR, RATS CAN GREATLY MULTIPLY IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.


RATS AND HUMANS HAVE CONTINUED TO FIGHT.
SINCE PRE-HISTORY, RIGHT UP TO THE PRESENT DAY...
ILL HAVE TO MAKE A BETTER REFRIGERATOR.
SUCH THOUGHTS HAD NEVER CROSSED THE MIND OF THE BOY, WHO TILL NOW HAD ONLY HAD THE ONE ENCOUNTER WITH THEM...
RATS WILL STEAL AWAY ALL THAT HUMANS HARVEST.
YET IT SEEMED THE DAY FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN THAT BATTLE HAD COME.